



Facts About...

Changes to the Vehicle Emissions Inspection Program (VEIP) for Fleet Inspection Stations and Certified Emissions Repair Facilities

— Effective August 1, 2009 —

- **Elimination of the IM240 dynamometer test**

Maryland has modified the VEIP to provide the most cost effective means of emissions testing into the future years. The changes are concurrent with the start of a new VEIP operations contract period of August 1, 2009 – July 31, 2014. A key change is elimination of the IM240 dynamometer test; vehicle inspections now consist of on-board diagnostics (OBD) testing and idle testing.

The dynamometer test has been eliminated because over 85% of the current vehicle population is OBD-equipped, while the number eligible for the dynamometer test is about 10% and declining as older vehicles are replaced with newer models. Non-OBD-equipped vehicles are idle tested.

- **Mandatory gas cap testing for vehicles undergoing the idle test**

The gas cap test is a functional check for leaks and proper seal to reduce fuel evaporation. The gas cap test had previously been advisory only. Vehicles that arrive for testing without a gas cap, or with the incorrect gas cap, will fail the test.

OBD-equipped vehicles are not subject to the mandatory gas cap test because the OBD system checks the entire fuel system, including the cap.

- **Revised idle test standards for certain model year vehicles**

The updated idle test standards apply primarily to certain model year light duty passenger vehicles and trucks that had previously been subject to the IM240 test. Idle test standards have been revised for 1991 – 1995 models, reflecting advances in emissions control system design and durability. Some heavy duty standards have been updated as well. The standards are listed at www.mde.state.md.us.

- **Permanent closure of the Gaithersburg West VEIP testing station**

Due to a request from the Federal Aviation Administration, the Montgomery County West VEIP Station located by the Gaithersburg Airpark is permanently closed as of August 1, 2009. Motorists may take their vehicles to the other Montgomery County VEIP station, located at 15910 Chieftain Ave, Derwood, MD 20855, off of Redland Rd and Yellowstone Way – ½ mile east of Frederick Rd (MD 355). Additional VEIP locations are listed at www.mde.state.md.us.



— Upcoming Changes —

- **Updates to the Fleet Inspection Station Program**

The Fleet Inspection Station (FIS) program licenses organizations with centrally maintained fleets to perform emissions testing on their own vehicles. The program has been frozen to new applicants since 1995, but may now be expanded and updated due to the change in test procedures to OBD and idle testing only.

Beginning in early 2010, the VEIP operations contractor, ESP of Maryland, will provide test equipment to each FIS through purchase or lease. The fully automated test equipment will be connected into the central data system, and include the fraud and error prevention functions found in the State VEIP stations. The new equipment will also provide improved testing operations, automatic vehicle compliance reporting, and electronic purchase of testing authorizations.

Organizations with fleets of 25 or more vehicles may apply for a FIS license. Informational seminars will be held in the upcoming months to provide more detail.

- **New Equipment Requirements for Certified Emissions Repair Facilities**

A Certified Emissions Repair Facility (CERF) has been required to own an exhaust emissions gas analyzer in addition to other diagnostic equipment. However, most repairs are now related to OBD failures that do not necessitate the use of a gas analyzer. Beginning in Fall 2009, VEIP will offer an alternative emissions repair facility certification not requiring a gas analyzer.

The new certification level is suitable for shops that do not normally repair older passenger vehicles or heavy duty vehicles. These CERFs will be advertised as equipped to repair OBD failures. A CERF that chooses to keep the gas analyzer will be advertised as equipped to repair both idle test and OBD test failures. Please contact MDE for the list of approved gas analyzers.

To reflect changes that have taken place in the automotive industry, the other diagnostic equipment a CERF must possess has also been updated, and now consists of:

- Emissions diagnostic and repair information for affected model year vehicles.
- Scan tool to extract fault codes from any vehicle equipped with on-board diagnostics.
- Multimeter.
- Fuel or hydraulic pressure gauge.
- Vacuum gauge.
- Vacuum pump.
- Compression tester or cylinder leak down tester.

- **RepairTrak for Master Certified Emissions Technicians and CERFs**

RepairTrak is an internet-based program to allow MCETs and CERFs to enter repair data and monitor repair success. MCETs and CERFs will have limited access to VEIP test records as well. RepairTrak also has space for program updates and technical information for MCETs and CERFs.

This section of the program also has advantages for motorists, who will be able to view the latest test results for a vehicle. A motorist who has misplaced the diagnostic report from a failed VEIP test will be able to print it out to bring to the repair technician.

RepairTrak is expected to be on line in December 2009. The VEIP operations contractor, ESP, will have a Repair Industry Ombudsman to work directly with technicians and facilities on issues related to VEIP test failures and repairs.

For more information:

Questions may be directed to Karl Munder at (410) 537-3257 or kmunder@mde.state.md.us.

The Department of the Environment and the Motor Vehicle Administration will hold a public hearing on the VEIP changes on September 16, 2009 at 10 a.m. at the Department of the Environment, 1800 Washington Boulevard, 1st Floor Aeris Conference Room, Baltimore, Maryland 21230-1720. Interested persons are invited to attend and express their views.

